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Letter dated 26 January 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 26 January 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plûmer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 26 January 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 16 and 18 December 1998 and 13 January 1999 (A/53/761-S/1998/1189, A/53/765-S/1998/1209 and A/53/798-S/1999/57, respectively), addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic and of the flight information region of Nicosia".

I would like to recall that similar charges on so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 14 December 1998 (A/53/749-S/1998/1171). Suffice it to say that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

As expressed previously, through such allegations, the Greek Cypriot side aims to provide a smokescreen for its policy of escalation and tension on the island, which is being carried out within the framework of the Joint Military Doctrine with Greece. Noteworthy in this context has been the political storm that has engulfed South Cyprus over the disclosures made by Mr. Andonis Karas, a Greek Cypriot Member of Parliament, regarding large-scale arms transfers from Greece to South Cyprus. Mr. Karas, who holds the Vice-Chairmanship of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives Defence Committee, was faced with a storm of protests after reports appeared in the Greek Cypriot press quoting him as having stated that "lately Greece has been sending sophisticated weaponry valued at hundreds of millions of dollars to South Cyprus, including tanks operated by Greek personnel" (Greek Cypriot dailies Fileleftheros and Simerini of 8 January 1999).

There is no doubt that the Greek Cypriot administration will continue to pursue a reckless policy of escalation until such time as interested third parties strongly urge that administration to stop militarizing the Cyprus issue and instead seek a political settlement of the dispute in the light of the existing realities on the island.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ Plümer
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus